

April 2015 Monthly Resources:



Dear Common Core Implementation Team Member,

April brings spring showers and celebrations of mathematics, school libraries and poetry! Look for Common Core-aligned resources in this month's CCIT listserv for National Mathematics Awareness Month, National School Library Month and National Poetry Month. Thank you for all the ways you inspire students to explore and find joy in prose, poetry and problem-solving.

My NJDOE colleagues and I also extend gratitude for ushering your students into the first phase of the PARCC assessment. Give yourselves a round of applause and continue to send ideas to njcore@doe.state.nj.us about resources you need to continue your work with students.

Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Academics



Common Core State Standards

- **NJ Educator Resource Exchange (NJCore.org)**

What's new at NJCore.org for April? Your colleagues have been uploading materials and you can, too! Please continue sending us your feedback at njcore@doe.state.nj.us and checking for the latest in Common Core-aligned resources on the website.

www.njcore.org

- **Common Core Fact Checker by Collaborative for Student Success**

The Collaborative for Student Success is a grant-making initiative created by education foundations advocating for implementation of the Common Core as a way to ensure all students are prepared for college. The group supports state-led efforts to inform parents, students, teachers and community leaders about the standards and new online assessments. Their current project, "Common Core Fact Checker," is a communication tool for facts and news on the Common Core.

<http://thecommoncore.com/>

- **National Poetry Month and Common Core-Aligned Resources**

April is National Poetry Month and this website provides information on celebrations, contests and access to classroom resources for integrating poetry into the curriculum. The site also gives access to lesson plans developed by the Academy of American Poets, most of which are aligned to the Common Core. The Academy's Educator in Residence has reviewed all classroom materials with "an eye toward developing skills of perception and imagination."

<http://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/about-celebration>
<http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/lesson-plans>

- **Teaching Channel's "Tcher's Voice Blog" on Today's Mathematics Classroom**

The author of this blog piece wonders how educators are making the shifts required in the way they teach the Common Core Mathematics standards. She posts comments from teachers across the country, all from the online Teaching Channel community, describing changes in their mathematics instructional practices.

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/blog/2015/03/10/math-in-todays-classroom/>

- **Teaching the Core K-12 Classroom Videos**

The Teaching the Core website offers a collection of K-12 classroom videos and related lesson materials reviewed by "educators and content experts using Student Achievement Partners' Instructional Practice Guide." The videos are annotated to "identify lesson elements and teacher and student actions" which support the Common Core instructional shifts and learning.

<http://www.teachingthecore.org/>



Financial Literacy and the Common Core State Standards

- **Junior Achievement BizTown Program for 5th and 6th Grade Students**

JA BizTown® is a free, standards-based real world learning program for 5th and 6th grade students in NJ schools. The Common Core aligned curriculum provides lessons on financial literacy, the community and the economy, work readiness, and business management. Culminating activities include a fully-interactive, day-long visit to the simulated city of BizTown where students take on various roles managing 14 businesses and engaging in activities as consumers and citizens. For information, contact Ashley Donecker, at the website below.

http://janj.org/programs/ja_biztown



Spotlight on Local District Educators Implementing Standards

- **Hopatcong Educators Integrate ELA Literacy into Music Curriculum**

Shawna Longo and Kurt Zimmermann, teachers in Hopatcong Borough Schools (Sussex County), presented a “Music and the ELA Common Core” workshop at the February 2015 NJ Music Educators Association Convention. They will present the workshop again in August at The College of NJ and plan to video the presentation. At the link below, find their workshop Prezi and contact information.

<https://prezi.com/ynrftejozson/music-ela-common-core/>



Note: Tell us what ***your*** district is doing to help your school community learn the facts and benefits of CCSS and PARCC assessments and we'll share it here! Send information to njcore@doe.state.nj.us.



**Partnership for Assessment of
Readiness for College and Careers**

- **PARCC Online offers “News and Updates”**

The current PARCC “News and Updates” site includes information on the National Parent Teacher Association’s (PTA) *Parents’ Guide to Student Success*, and a tutorial on the technology students use during the PARCC test administration. Check this site often for PARCC news.

<http://www.parcconline.org/news>

- **New! NJDOE Webpage PARCC Tab on Website Homepage**

The Department has added a PARCC “tab” on the NJDOE website homepage offering comprehensive information for all stakeholders regarding the online assessments. The factual information about NJ’s new tests found here will be updated as needed with additional questions and answers to help parents and the larger community with better understanding of PARCC.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/PARCCFAQ.pdf>



Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

- **New! NJDOE Office of STEM announces NGSS Videos available online**

The Department's Office of STEM announces that four Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) videos are now available online. The videos present an overview of key innovations in the NGSS and a deeper dive into each of the three dimensions of the NGSS. To find the videos, go to <http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/science/> or click on the direct links below. For more information, contact Michael Heinz, Science Coordinator, at science@doe.state.nj.us.

- **NGSS: A Vision for K-12 Science Education:**
<https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/next-generation-science-standards-achieve>
- **NGSS: Crosscutting Concepts:**
<https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/crosscutting-concepts-achieve>
- **NGSS: Science & Engineering Practices:**
<https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/science-engineering-practices-achieve>
- **NGSS: Disciplinary Core Ideas:**
<https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/disciplinary-core-ideas-achieve>

- **NGSS NOW Highlights New Science PLC with Rahway and Linden Educators**

The Next Generation Science Standards website offers a monthly newsletter with NGSS news and updates. The March 2015 issue includes an item highlighting the creation of a Professional Learning Community by teachers from Rahway and Linden focused on "A Framework for K-12 Science Education." The article appears in the "NGSS in the News" section of the newsletter.

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/march-ngss-now-newsletter>



FREE Audio-Visual: Webinars, TV, Videos and Apps

- **School Library Month and Free Professional Development Webinars**

April is School Library Month and this year's theme is "Your School Library Where Learning Never Ends." At the website below, find information on American Association of School Librarians (AASL) webinars for all educators listed under "Professional Development."

<http://www.ala.org/aasl/slm>

- **Mobile and Web Tools to Improve Parent-Teacher Communication**

This eSchool News article describes a teacher's experiences with free apps and social media sites to enhance school to home communication, including families who may not have access to the Internet. Tools such as Twitter, Remind, Google Apps for Education, If This Then That (IFTTT) and others are discussed along with user tips.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/2015/03/03/parent-communication-542/>

- **Overwhelmed Educators Should Stick to These Simple Tech Tools**

The author of this eSchool News article suggests that teachers may feel overwhelmed, rather than empowered, with all the choices in technology for classroom instruction. She suggests guiding frameworks for selecting among four kinds of tools to simplify the process and ensure decisions are meaningful in terms of student learning.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/2015/03/02/simple-tech-tools-860/>

- **CCSSO Implement the Common Core Standards (ICCS) Webinars**

http://www.ccsso.org/CCSS_Forward_State_Resources_and_Success_Stories_to_Implement_the_Common_Core/Webinars_and_Newsletters.html

- **edWeb.net Webinars**

<http://home.edweb.net/upcoming-webinars/>

- **ASCD Webinars**

<http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/webinars.aspx>

- **Education Week Webinars**

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/marketplace/webinars/webinars.html?intc=thed>



YOU are a CCSS and PARCC Resource!

- ***ASCD Express Invites Content for July 9th Issue: Words, Words, Words***

ASCD Express is a free e-newsletter published twice monthly with “practical, actionable strategies and information” written by and for practitioners. Editors are accepting 600-1,000 word essays or 10-minute multimedia pieces for the July 9th edition focusing on connections between vocabulary, reading comprehension, and learning. Due date is April 15, 2015.

<http://www.ascd.org/ascd-express/Themes/Write-for-ASCD-Express.aspx#themes>



Further Reading

- **NJASCD's *The Front Page* Edition March 2015**

In the newest issue of *The Front Page*, Barry Saide, Bernards Township educator and a member of the NJDOE Educator Leader Cadre, writes about the Common Core's key elements of communication, collaboration and critical thinking. He suggests what these concepts look like in the adult workplace as well as the student classroom to understand their universal importance.

<http://c2.njascd.schoolwires.net/Page/148>

- **International Holocaust Remembrance Day is April 16, 2015**

The internationally recognized date for Holocaust Remembrance Day is Thursday, April 16th. NJTV's Classroom Closeup will present "Transformation and Remembrance" on April 8th, documenting the 2014 trip of thirty NJ educators as they visited several Holocaust sites and shared teaching strategies about the events with their German colleagues. Visit the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education for more information on classroom lessons and resources.

<http://classroomcloseup.org/transformation-remembrance/>

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/curriculum/>

- **Mathematics Awareness Month in NJ and Washington, DC**

"Math Drives Careers" is the theme for the 2015 Mathematics Awareness Month. This website provides information on how to celebrate the April campaign. A free event for all ages, the first National Math Festival, in Washington, D.C. on April 18th, will be "dedicated to discovering the delight and power of mathematics in everyday life." Check the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey (AMTNJ) website also for statewide activities.

<http://www.mathaware.org/index.html>

<http://amtnj.org/>

- **Governor's STEM Scholars Program**

The Governor's STEM Scholars Program is accepting applications until Friday, May 29, 2015. The program is a public-private partnership for students interested in STEM from Grades 10 - PhD. The organizations supporting the program include the Research & Development Council of New Jersey, Governor's Office, New Jersey Department of Education, and New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education.

<http://www.govstemscholars.com/>

- **NJDOE's *The Bridge* Newsletter for Educators**

Check this website each month for *The Bridge* newsletter written for NJ K-12 educators. Each issue offers relevant and updated information on the Common Core standards and PARCC assessments, as well as other information related to the profession.

<http://education.state.nj.us/feature/>

- **NJDOE's *Family and Community Circle* Newsletter for Parents and Guardians**

Check this website regularly for the *Family and Community Circle* newsletter for parents, guardians and the community on the Common Core standards, PARCC assessments and other topics related to what's happening in NJ's school classrooms and beyond.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/parents/newsletter/>



FREE Professional Development Opportunities

- **Free professional development offerings on NJDOE Calendar of Events**

<http://education.state.nj.us/events/>

- **Free New Jersey Council of Social Studies Workshops**

NJCSS will offer educators free regional workshops in April. See details at the NJCSS website where standards-aligned NJ history lessons are also accessible under "Resources."

<http://www.njcass.org/>



Do you know someone who isn't receiving these?

Forward this to a colleague and encourage them to sign-up!

<http://education.state.nj.us/ccit/subscribe.php>



Missed any CCIT mailings?

Find previous mailings at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/team/ccit.pdf>



How else can we help you?

Send us an e-mail at njcore@doe.state.nj.us

NJCore.org What's Trending?

New Features & Content on NJCORE.ORG (<http://njcore.org/>)

- Badge awards for resource contributions levels.
- Featured content area on homepage

	Month (March)	Since Launch
Number of Registered Educators	2	2,078
Number of Visitors	7,486	139,060
Top 5 Districts	Newark	Trenton
	Jersey City	Passaic
	Wayne	Bayonne
	Trenton	Newark
	Franklin Township	Jersey City